

Remarks

Claims 11, 12, 14, 20, 22, 24, 26 and 28-35 are pending in the application. Claims 11, 12, 14, 20, 22, 24, 26 and 28-31 and 33-35 are allowed. Claims 1-10, 13, 15-19, 21, 23, 25 and 27 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Telephonic Examiner Interview

The undersigned thanks Examiner Mercado for the courtesy of the telephonic Examiner Interview held on March 24, 2006.

Claim rejections

Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10, 15, 16, 18 and 32 have been rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Dews et al. (US 3,801,374) ("Dews"). Claims 1, 3-5, 7, 8, 10, 15, 16 and 18 have been canceled.

Claim 32 is allowable for at least the reason that it depends on allowed claim 11. Note is taken of the Examiner's comment in the Interview Summary that the art rejection of claim 32 will be withdrawn.

Note is further taken of the Examiner's comment in the Interview Summary regarding a forthcoming rejection of claim 32 under 35 USC 112, 2nd paragraph. The Examiner remarks that "a width is consistent" in claim 32 appears to contradict the feature "the width of each of the regions is different" in claim 11 from which claim 32 depends.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claim 32 recites "a width is consistent *within a region*" (emphasis added). This does not contradict claim 11. An example of the feature referred to in claim 32 is shown in FIG. 11. FIG. 11 illustrates three different regions with different widths W1, W2 and W3. However, *within* a given region, width is consistent – i.e., either W1 throughout a region, W2 throughout a region, or W3 throughout a region.

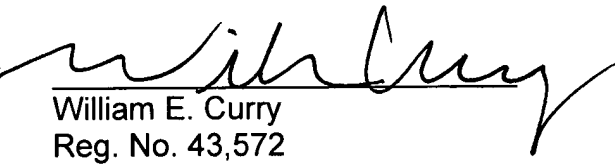
Conclusion

In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits favorable reconsideration and early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

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